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IN THE  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Laurence J. Newell *et al.*  
SERIAL NO.: 09/854,153  
FILING DATE: May 11, 2001  
TITLE: CHANNEL GAIN CONTROL FOR AN OPTICAL COMMUNICATIONS  
SYSTEM UTILIZING FREQUENCY DIVISION MULTIPLEXING  
EXAMINER: Augustin Bello  
GROUP ART UNIT: 2633  
ATTY. DKT. NO.: 20852-05133

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Dated: March 30, 2004

By: Dorian Cartwright

Dorian Cartwright, Reg. No. 53,853

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**RESPONSE A**

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Technology Center 2600

SIR:

This amendment for the patent application identified above is in response to the Office Action dated September 30, 2003, paper no. 7, which set a shortened statutory period for response that expired on December 30, 2003. A three-month extension fee is included herewith.

Kindly amend this specification as indicated herein.

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